

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO WEST GENESEE'S HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the West Genesee High School Boys' Lacrosse Team, which won the Class A state championship title.

The team won the Section Three championship in order to move on and become one of only 8 teams from around New York State to play in the state playoffs. In the state playoffs, they won their quarterfinal and semifinal games, placing them in the state final. The West Genesee team then traveled to Long Island, where they captured their third straight Class A championship title and ended their season with a record of 23 wins and only one loss.

Team captains Brian Stanton, Andrew Hanover, Tom Donahue, and Mike Malone led the state champion West Genesee Boys' Lacrosse Team made up of players Brian Griffin, Dave Osier, Joel Derrigo, Brian Cost, Jake Moulton, Mark Cometti, Josh Begley, Jeff Ryan, Alex Bily, Ben Mercado, Steve Prosonic, P.J. Motondo, Tim Spillet, Dan Balestra, Tim Griffin, Andrew Vecchio, Kevin Joy, Marc Cizenski, Tim Gearhart, Jaren Woepel, Matt Pompo, Kevin Simon, Tom Collins, Chris Duffy, Sean Leahy, Shane McConnell, Jon Keuchler, Mark Keida, Jeff Cleland, Tom Geiss, and Dan McKeon. Head coach Mike Messere, and assistant coaches Bob Deegan and Dave Metz guided the team in their outstanding accomplishments.

I would like to express my congratulations to the team for such an outstanding achievement and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF AMBASSADOR C.J.
CHEN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I join my colleagues in honoring a unique man and a graceful diplomat.

Ambassador Chen is returning to Taiwan after four years of exemplary service as the representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative office, the quasi embassy of the Republic of China. In fact, since joining his country's foreign service 37 years ago, Ambassador Chen has always been involved with the U.S.-Taiwan relations in his many job assignments both in Taiwan and in the United States. His diplomatic career mirrors very much the ups and downs of U.S.-Taiwan relations.

The nadir of U.S.-Taiwan relations came in 1979 when the Carter Administration severed

diplomatic ties with Taipei and recognized Beijing. C.J. Chen was then working in Taiwan's embassy in Washington. He spent days and nights negotiating and communicating with U.S. government officials and lawmakers in drafting the Taiwan Relations Act which became U.S. law on April 10, 1979. The TRA has enabled Taiwan to grow economically and politically in the last quarter of century.

In the subsequent years, in his many key roles in Taiwan's foreign ministry, C.J. made sure that the U.S. would play a role as balancer, stabilizer and facilitator in handling its relations with both Taiwan and the mainland. In addition, C.J. and other leaders in Taiwan have been successful in urging the U.S. to continue to provide Taiwan with the military sales necessary for Taiwan's self defense.

In the last 4 years, C.J., in his capacity as Taiwan's top diplomat in Washington, has further strengthened U.S.-Taiwan relations. U.S. confidence in Taiwan continues to rise and U.S.-Taiwan relations are now at its best since 1979. While there have been no major changes in the U.S. policy towards the two sides of the Taiwan Straits, U.S. tone towards Taiwan has markedly improved, since Taiwan is a democracy and democracies count for something.

In addition to the Bush administration's goodwill towards Taiwan, congressional support and friendship continues to grow, especially in the last 4 years. Since the inception of the 108th Congress, both the Senate and the House have introduced or passed a number of pro-Taiwan bills and resolutions such as Taiwan's participation in the WHO, a U.S.-Taiwan Free Trade Agreement, security in the Taiwan Strait, welcome for transits by Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian etc. All these achievements are directly attributable to the efforts of Ambassador C.J. Chen.

Mr. Speaker, C.J. and his wife Yolanda will be missed in Washington. I wish C.J. and Yolanda all the best and hope they will keep in touch with their many friends in Washington.

HONORING DR. CHARLOTTE GROFF

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the inspiring career of Dr. Charlotte Groff, of Berrien Springs, Michigan. A dedicated and selfless individual, Charlotte has enthusiastically educated students of St. Joseph and Coloma schools over the past 50 years.

Since 1954, Charlotte's contributions to our community have been tremendous. Over this time she has played a role in the development and success of countless students, and watched as these students grew into pillars of the communities of southwest Michigan and beyond.

Throughout her vast career, Charlotte has held many teaching positions and has taught

in diverse teaching capacities—all with great distinction. Charlotte has taught every summer in the Coloma migrant program since its inception in 1968—except for the 2 years she worked on a doctoral degree. Also, since 1975 she has been a reading specialist for children from disadvantaged homes.

As Charlotte retires this summer, she closes one chapter of her inspiring and remarkable legacy of educating our youth. I am confident that this retirement is far from being the end to Charlotte's teaching. The numerous lives that will be educated and touched by Charlotte will no doubt continue for many years to come. The passion that she has for teaching is everlasting and I wish her all the best in retirement. Charlotte will be truly missed in Coloma Community School and throughout southwest Michigan.

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4060, the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004.

The Peace Corps represents our nation's enduring commitment to progress, opportunity, and expanded development—beginning at the grassroots level.

Since 1961, more than 170,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 137 countries to promote the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship.

Volunteers offer skills in education, healthcare, business, agriculture and the environment. They respond to the world's most challenging crises like poverty, hunger and HIV/AIDS. They are to be commended for their sacrifice, their hard work and their commitment to improving the lives of others.

Today, more than 7,500 Peace Corps Volunteers—young and old—serve in 71 countries around the world, including 25 volunteers from my Congressional District.

With an increase in volunteers comes a greater challenge for the Peace Corps to ensure the safety and security of all Volunteers. Expanding the Peace Corps' missions in Africa, the Middle East and other volatile regions increases the chance of criminal activities and requires the dedication of greater time, energy and resources toward safety issues.

H.R. 4060 takes a good step toward strengthening the Peace Corps and making sure all Volunteers are safe. The bill creates a Peace Corps Ombudsman to receive and inquire into complaints, questions, or concerns raised by current or former volunteers or employees of the Peace Corps. This legislation also establishes an Office of Safety and Security within the Peace Corps to help coordinate

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